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Tennessee Valley Authority, Post Office Box 470, Tupelo, Mississippi 38802

Glenn L. McCullough, Jr.
Chairman

September 11, 2001

Mr. Lake H. Barrett
Acting Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management
Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Barrett:

I received your August 27 letter requesting the Tennessee Valley Authority's views and comments on the possible site recommendation for Yucca Mountain. After review, we have concluded that the Department's Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation (PSSE) and bases documents support a decision by the Secretary of Energy to recommend the Yucca Mountain site for a spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste repository.

The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) in conjunction with the nuclear energy industry, has completed an extensive evaluation of the Department's PSSE. We support the views and comments provided by NEI. The reported scientific and engineering information complies with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act requirements and supports proceeding with the suitability recommendation. Accordingly, we believe there are adequate technical and scientific bases for finding that the Yucca Mountain site is suitable for the development of a repository, and that the Secretary should proceed to recommend the site to the President at this time.

We recognize that the Secretary's recommendation regarding the Yucca Mountain site is an important intermediate step in the process for siting and developing a repository. Provided that such a recommendation is approved by the President, we recognize as well that a significant licensing process will still be required to verify that all aspects of design, construction, operation and closure provide health and safety protection for the public and workers and protect the environment. We look forward to providing our views during this licensing process as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Glenn L. McCullough, Jr.'.

Glenn L. McCullough, Jr.